

# Seattle and Climate Change

## A Global City Acting Locally

### Climate disruption - a global and local problem

In the Pacific Northwest, we depend on our snowpack for much of our region's drinking water supply, hydroelectricity, recreation, fish habitat and irrigation. Since 1950, the Cascades snowpack has been reduced by 50 percent and scientists predict that by 2050 climate change could reduce snowpack by another 50 percent.

### Seattle's Climate Action Plan:

- Mayor Nickels **will build a "green" coalition of mayors at the U.S. Conference of Mayors** this June in Chicago and challenge all U.S. cities to create a national, grass-roots effort to implement the Kyoto Protocol. Ten cities, have already agreed to join Seattle to bring an urban climate protection agenda to the meeting.
- Mayor Nickels will work with the legislature to **pass the clean-car bill adopting stronger emission standards for cars sold in our state.**
- Mayor Nickels will create a **Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection, chaired by Denis Hayes, president, Bullitt Foundation and Orin Smith, president & ceo, Starbucks Coffee Company** to develop a Climate Action Plan to meet or beat Kyoto's global warming pollution reduction targets in Seattle. The plan will recommend ways for businesses, universities, neighborhoods and households to implement cost-effective climate protection strategies and ways to bolster emerging clean energy technologies and green buildings.

#### First steps

- An Executive Order directing City departments to reduce their use of paper by 30 percent by the end of 2006
- Include global warming pollution reduction as a criterion in Neighborhood Matching Fund grants decisions
- Publish a community action guide on climate protection by Earth Day
- Explore the increased use of climate-friendly materials in City projects

### Seattle - already part of the solution

**Smart Growth:** Reducing urban sprawl is one of the most effective climate protection strategies. The Mayor's "smart growth" strategies for Seattle's Center City and urban centers reduce global warming pollution by reducing dependence on cars and increasing energy efficiency

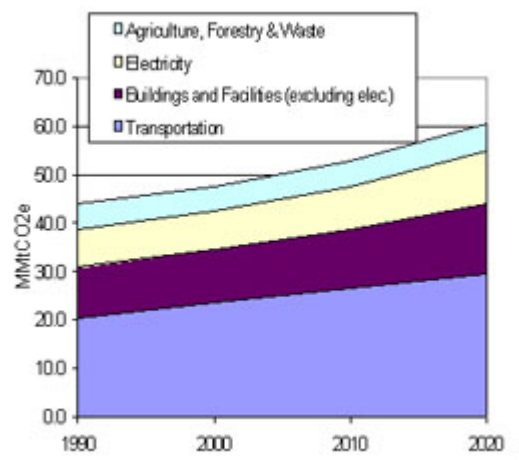
**Clean energy:** Seattle City Light is the only electric utility in the country committed to zero net greenhouse gas emissions by the end of 2005

**Greenhouse gas reduction:** Seattle City government has already reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60 percent by constructing green buildings and operating alternative fuel vehicles

**Transportation choices:** The City's work to expand transportation choices -- including light rail, monorail, streetcars, and improved bike and pedestrian opportunities -- will reduce the number one source of global warming pollution in our region: motor vehicle emissions

**Recycling:** Our goal of achieving a 60% recycling rate by 2008 avoids thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the need for materials and energy

**Sustainable forests:** Seattle banned commercial logging in the Cedar River Watershed and is committed to restoring 2,500 acres of urban forests by 2024. Forests absorb and store global warming pollution.



Data from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency show that regional greenhouse gas emissions will grow by 27% by 2020 unless we act.



"The reality of global climate change is urgent. The stakes are high - locally and globally - and we need to act. As a City government, we've already cut our greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60% compared to 1990 levels. But it's not enough - we need to work together as a community to set responsible limits on global warming pollution."

*Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

**Cool cars don't guzzle.** When you buy your next car, look for the one with the best fuel economy in its class. Vehicles have the single largest impact on climate change of any action you take. Corporate fleets can also be more fuel efficient.

**Look for Energy Star.** When it's time to replace appliances and office equipment, look for the Energy Star label. And turn computers and other equipment off when not in use.

**Light bulbs matter.** If every family in the US replaced one light bulb with a compact fluorescent model, we'd reduce global warming pollution by more than 90 billion pounds, the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road. And turn off lights that aren't needed – at home and at work.

**Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot.** Using the right detergent, clothes will be just as clean and will cut your energy use in half.

**Tune up the furnace.** Set home thermostats to 68° when you are home and 55° or lower at night or when away.

**Leave your car at home** – walk, bike, carpool, or take public transportation.

**Plant a tree.** Trees store carbon and provide much-needed shade in the summer.

Call and sign up for City Light's **GreenPower** program.

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT SEATTLE

### Other Cities

"I commend Seattle and Mayor Nickels for taking on this issue. The refusal of our federal government even to acknowledge global warming and climate disruption is appalling... We can't wait for this vacuum of leadership to fill."  
*Mayor Peter Clavelle, Burlington, Vermont*

"I congratulate Seattle and Mayor Nickels on this leadership commitment to address global warming... We are proud that the people of Seattle share our vision for turning the crisis of global warming into an opportunity to transform our economy and leave a healthier planet for our children and grandchildren." *Mayor Tom Potter, Portland, OR*

"We congratulate Seattle on its bold programs and look forward to cooperating to build a better world..." *Mayor Jerry Brown, City of Oakland*

### Environmental Leaders

"It's now clear that the effort to stop global warming in the United States will be led by the cities and states -- not the federal government. No other city is currently doing more than Seattle, and I'm delighted that Mayor Nickels plans to keep Seattle in the vanguard on this issue."  
*Denis Hayes, President, Bullitt Foundation, Seattle*

"The Sierra Club commends Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels for leadership on climate change, and his support for clean cars and busses... Thank goodness for cities like Seattle. By operating more cleanly and efficiently, Seattle will grow stronger economically, and enhance its reputation as a wonderful place to live. Seattle is showing the way, and its leaders deserve credit."  
*Carl Pope, Executive Director, Sierra Club*

"By this action Seattle joins the ranks of Fortune 500 CEOs and governments worldwide who are tackling global warming. It's good for business, good for the community and good for the world."  
*Steve Howard, CEO, The Climate Group, London*

### Business Leaders

"Starbucks applauds the City of Seattle's bold climate protection efforts and shares in the belief that this is a critical global issue that necessitates leadership action from all sectors in our community."  
*Orin Smith, president & ceo, Starbucks Coffee Company*

